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CHILE.

Plague at Iquique.

The following is received from Minister Wilson, under date of June 8: On May 26 our consul in Iquique telegraphed me to the effect that 13 cases of the bubonic plague existed there and that 5 deaths had occurred. The telegram of the consul served to confirm alarming reports which had been current in the press for some days prior to the receipt of the official news, but I delayed the transmission of the information to the Department to give time for the official investigation to be made by Chilean medical authorities.

Upon the date of my telegram the existence of plague was officially confirmed and a general quarantine was placed upon all ships from Iquique.

Until this date plague has not appeared at other Chilean ports and the Government is endeavoring to prevent its further spread by the exercise of the most stringent precautionary measures. Should the plague spread to other ports or cities of Chile I will at once advise the Department by cablegram.

COLOMBIA.

Report from Bocas del Toro, fruit port—Smallpox epidemic decreasing.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Osterhout reports as follows: Week ended July 21, 1903. Present officially estimated population not obtainable. One case of smallpox; 1 death; number of deaths from other causes, 3; prevailing diseases, smallpox and malarial affections. General sanitary condition of this port and the surrounding country during the week, not good. Smallpox has materially decreased. At present there are 23 cases in the isolation hospital under treatment. From May 11, 1903. to July 15, 1903, inclusive, 117 cases smallpox were treated at the hospital established for this purpose; of this number, 13 died.

Bills of health were issued to the following-named vessels:

Date.	Name of vessel.	Number of crew.	Number of passengers from this port.	Number of passengers in transit.	Pieces of baggage disinfected.
July 15	Beverly	39	0	0	0
16	Fort Gaines	22	0	0	0
17	Harald	19	0	0	0
19	Belvernon	21	0	0	0

COSTA RICA.

Report from Limon, fruit port—Yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Gruver reports as follows: Week ended July 23, 1903. Estimated population, 4,000; number of cases of yellow fever, 9—deaths, 4; one death from other cause; prevailing disease, yellow fever. Of the cases reported above 4 are natives, 2 Spanish,